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THE

CONFESSION AND EXECUTION

Of the Two Prisoners that suffered at

TYBURN

On *Munday* the 16th of *December*. 1678.

VIZ.

Nathaniel Russel, a Bayley's Follower, for Murdering a young man in *Whites-Alley*.

AND

Stewen Arrowsmith, for a Rape commited on a Girl between Eight and Nine years of age.

GIVING

A true Account of their Behaviour after Condemnation; the substance of the Discourses that past between them and Mr. Ordinary in *Newgate* that morning before they went into the Cart; and their Speeches at the place of Execution.

LICENSED, 1678.

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The Confeſsion and Execution of the Two Priſoners that ſuffered at *Tyburn*.

ON Thurſday the 12th of this inſtant *December*, Six perſons in all receiv'd ſentence of Death: One for Murther, one for a Rape, one for Treaſon, one for Clipping of Money, one for ſtealing a Mare, and a woman and a man (old Offenders) for ſeveral Felonies. Of theſe, Four obtained his Majeſties gracious Reprieve: The other Two, *viz. Nathaniel Ruſſel*, for Murthering of a young man; and *Steeven Arrowſmith*, for abuſing and Raviſhing a Girl between Eight and Nine years of age, were ordered for Execution on *Munday* the 16th of this inſtant *Decemb.*

Their Crimes were thus: A Bayley and his Follower in *White*'s-Alley, by Vertue of a Marſhals Writ; went up into a Chamber, having the Door open'd to them, to Arreſt a young Gentlewoman; her Brother, a lad about Seventeen or Eighteen years of age, being with her, ſtood before her with a piece of a Curtain-rod in his hand; the Bayley coming up to him, ſhov'd him down in a Chair; and preſently the Follower, having his Sword drawn before he came into the Room, run him into the Body; ſo that he cryed out, he was kill'd, as indeed it proved: for on the Thurſday-night following he died, being run through the Liver and Midrif. It was proved by three Witneſſes that the young man neither ſtruck nor thruſt at the Baylies, nor gave any provocation; and that

the Wound was given before any Arreſt made: nor did they take away the young woman as Priſoner, but returned a Reſcue upon the perſon dead. The Bayly alleadged his Warrant, juſtifying his coming there; but diſown'd that he any way contributed to the Fact, and was acquitted. The Follower had little material to ſay for himſelf, onely alleadged, that the young man made at him with a Spit, which he took for a Sword, and threatned to kill him; contrary to Witneſſes call'd even by themſelves: And ſo was found guilty of Wilful Murther, as aforeſaid.

The other being a Prentice to a Victualler in *Barking*-pariſh, was indicted on the Statute, for having the carnal knowledge and abuſing his Maſters Daughter, a Childe between eight and nine of age. It appeared he had ſeduced her with Money, and abuſed her ſeveral Sundays as having then moſt opportunity, for many weeks together, till at laſt the Childe being much hurt, was ſcarce able to go, and then with much ado ſhe diſcovered it. The ſeveral Circumſtances, though they were neceſſary there to be proved, are too foul and unſeemly here to be related. The Childe her ſelf teſtified it fully, and another Girl about ten years old, gave Evidence what poſture ſhe once ſaw them in; and four or five women proved the wrong done to the Childe upon their view of her body, and what a ſad Diſeaſe was thereby contracted: ſo that the Evidence ſeem'd as home as could poſſibly be expected in a Crime of this kind; yet the Jury at firſt appeared diſſatisfied, but on better advice, and more mature conſideration, juſtly brought him in Guilty: for which he now ſuffer'd. A fit Warning for all laſcivious perſons to deter them from the horrid practices of debauching and ruining poor Children of ſuch tender years; it being Death by the Law to have Carnal knowledge of any Female childe under Ten years of age, even although with her Conſent: which from thoſe ſo young is reaſonably preſum'd to proceed from an innocent Indiſcretion and Ignorance of what they are tempted to.

During

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During the short space between Sentence and Execution Mr. *Ordinary* took great pains with them both in private Exhortations, and in his Sermons on the Lords day, and God was pleased to bless his good endeavours with such success, that they both at last, in the judgment of Charity appeared very penitent and fit to dye. On Munday morning about nine a clock, the said two Prisoners, and another young Man Condemned for Clipping, were brought into the Hall of *Newgate*, where Mr. *Ordinary* applied himself to them in a very pertinent and pressing discourse, suitable to their condition, and in the process thereof, speaking particularly to *Russel*, he askt him, what hopes he had of Salvation, and upon what grounds? to which, lifting up his hands and eyes, he answered, that though he were a vile sinner, and his sins innumerable (repeating that word two or three times) yet he hoped and trusted to be saved by the infinite mercies of God in Christ Jesus, and that he had prayed earnestly for pardon, and had hopes that God would grant it him, and then of his own accord fell into Prayer with much affection, and words as apt as could be expected from a person of his Education. After that, Mr. *Ordinary* instructed him more fully in the nature of the terms on which pardon from God was to be obtained, that he must pray not only for a pardon, but to have his heart changed and sanctified by Regeneration; and then proceeded to inquire concerning the Fact for which he died, laying open the hainousness of the sin, to which the Prisoner replyed, that he did believe the

Man

Man dyed by his Sword, but affirmed, he had no intention either to kill or wound him; and that he himself could not certainly tell how it happened, being in the Evening, and done suddenly in an hurry, but denyed that the person deceased was pushed or held down by any body in a Chair. Mr. *Ordinary* told him, sure he formerly had been guilty of many grievous sins, that God should so give him up to such a Fact without any provocation, providence oft-times punishing great sins with greater; to this he answered, by confessing, that all his life he had run on in a course of wickedness and rebellion against God, and particularly bewailled with tears, his continual breach and neglect of the Sabbath and Religious Duties.

Then Mr *Ordinary* spake particularly to *Stephen Arrowsmith*, who with many tears deplored his condition, yet blessed God that he had generally led a very civil life; never was guilty of Theft, nor a frequenter of idle naughty houses, but used to hear very good Ministers, and rarely neglected his duty on the Sabbath, save only to visit his Parents, till Satan seduced him to this abominable wickedness, which he now very freely confest himself guilty of, and that he deserved to suffer for the same, which was great satisfaction to some present, to whom he before refused to acknowledge it. They both declared, that they were willing to dye, and dyed in the Protestant Religion, and expected Salvation not by any Righteousness or Works of their own, which were nothing but sin and vileness, but only and meerly by the passion and merits of the Lord Jesus. *Russel* had before ex-

expreſt ſomething to one of the other perſons Condemned, as he informed againſt him, as if he did not believe, or doubted whether there were any Local Hell. But Mr *Ordinary* inquired of him his belief in that point, whereupon, he replyed, that he was well ſatisfied that there was a real place of Hell, and did truſt God would deliver his Soul from it, and admit him into the Kingdome of Glory.

Then Mr. Ordinary prayed with, and for them, a conſiderable time very affectionately, and with great enlargement towards their particular Circumſtances; they attending very reverently on their Knees. After which another Miniſter came in, and gave them ſome Exhortation, and likewiſe prayed with them; then declaring to them, that the onely ſervice they could now do Godward, would be to warn others at the place of Execution to avoid Paſſion, Uncleanneſs, and all other ſins themſelves had poſſibly been guilty of, and which hath brought them to this untimely end: And deſiring them to compoſe themſelves, and keep their Hearts cloſe to God, the Miniſters for the preſent recommended them to God, and they were carried down to the Cart, deſiring moſt heartily, as they went, all people to pray for them. When they were putting on the Halters in the Lodge, he that did it, after it was on, aſked *Ruſſel* if it hurt him?-- *'Tis*, ſaith he, *ſomewhat ſtreight; but* (with a low voice, as to himſelf) *nothing can hurt me but ſin.*

At the place of Execution, the Ordinary exhorted and prayed for them, as likewiſe they for themſelves.

Then

Then they did freely of themselves warn all Spectators to take heed by their fatal Example of all Sin in general, and that they would get and maintain the Fear of God in their Hearts. *Russel* in particular desired them to beware of the great sin of Sabbath-profanation, as also of lewd Company, rash Passion, and Drunkenness. *Arrowsmith* acknowledged his Crime there again, and that he had often desired to resort to the publick Assemblies of God's people, but was detained from them by a person who should rather have encouraged him to it. He also said, that though he never took to any vitious course, yet as to his Crime of Brutish Lust, for which he suffered the penalty of the Law, he was surprized by the violent temptation of Satan, for which he could never sufficiently repent.

Upon consideration of the whole, and more that might be said, it is charitably believed that they both died very penitent, and with greater hope of their happy state than most that suffer death at that ignominious place.

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